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Barbara Abercrombie , Mark Graham (Illustrator)

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Charlie, a fuzzy gray cat, walked out of the woods one evening and into Elizabeth's and Sarah's hearts. Now he sleeps on their beds, lets them dress him up in doll clothes, and laps up warm milk on chilly nights. But where does Charlie go during the day?

It's not until a storm keeps Charlie away one night that the two sisters discover his other, daytime, home. But maybe that's not such a bad thing. Because, just like Elizabeth and Sarah, Charlie has two houses, two beds, and two families who love him very, very much!

Charlie Anderson Details

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Author : Barbara Abercrombie , Mark Graham (Illustrator)

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Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Animals, Family, Family Law, Divorce, Cats

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From Reader Review Charlie Anderson for online ebook

Samantha Fetalvero says

Rating: 5.0

Great book! I thought this was an adorable depiction of divorce as well as blended families. Charlie Anderson is a clever little feline who goes from house to house and takes advantage of all the food and love that both families grant him. Charlie Anderson's character shows the upside of having to two, which is why I am fond of this children's book and rated it five stars.

Fibersian says

Another favorite book of mine. This one sets up a little mystery. A cat comes to visit a family every night. They name him Charlie and take care of him. Then he disappears. They search and search. Finally they find him with another family who have named him Anderson. Usually Charlie spends the day with this family. The 2 families share the cat Charlie Anderson.

This is a story that promotes critical thinking. The reader can think aloud as s/he reads the story. Then have the children start thinking about where Charlie goes.

Heather Gray says

Type of book- picture book

literary genre- realistic fiction

Awards- none

Summary- One day a grey cat shows up at the house where two sisters live. They take him in and feed him and let him sleep at the end of their bed. Every morning after breakfast, Charlie leaves and goes into the woods. One day Charlie doesn't come back and the two sisters go looking for him. They ask several people, who haven't seen him, until they go to the house on the other side of the woods. They ask the people if they have seen their cat "Charlie" and the people reply that they have a cat who is grey, but his name isn't Charlie, his name is "Anderson". When the cat walks down the stairs, they realize that "Charlie" and "Anderson" are the same cat! After that they call him Charlie Anderson and the cat has two families who love him.

Critique of the book- This was a very cute book that was very helpful in teaching the students to synthesis, or think about their thinking and how their thinking changes throughout the book. It was a very unexpected ending and my students all loved it.

Prompts or questions- Why do you think the cat showed up at their house? (1)

Where do you think Charlie is going every morning? (5)

Why do you think Charlie is purring? What emotion do you think he has when he is at their house? (11)

What do you think happened to Charlie? Why didn't he come home? (15)

Why did Sarah and Elizabeth say that Anderson was Charlie? (22)

Craft elements for a lesson plan- I used this book in the instruction of synthesis which is a metacognitive strategy to help students think about their thinking throughout the story. The plot was very unexpected and so it was good in having their thinking about what was going to happen throughout.

Reena says

Genre: divorce-fiction

Grade Level: 2nd-3rd

This is a great book which is why it is on my favorites shelf. It is about a cat named Charlie Anderson, he is a cat who has two homes, two different families. This book is a good book to help children understand that sometimes people have two families, and it is not a bad thing. The book has a surprising ending, so it is a good way to have students write their own endings before you finish reading the story to them. This book is also a good way to start to have a conversation about blended families.

Liz Todd says

Always a fave. Sweet, quiet.. surprising. :)

Susanne Davison says

From jacket cover: A cat comes out of the night to steal the hearts of two sisters who look forward to his sleeping on their beds, until one day Charlie doesn't come home and they learn a surprising secret about him.

Jackie says

Charlie Anderson is a cuddly, purring striped gray cat who appears at Sarah and Elizabeth's house each night. They love him, but wonder where he lives during the day. It is not until a scary stormy night in which Charlie does not show that the mystery takes on a new slant. Sarah and Elizabeth go over to the new house beyond the woods and ask the couple if they've seen him. Yes! Of course 'Anderson', our cuddly gray cat lives here!.

In time, Sarah and Elizabeth realize that a cat can be loved and cared for in two homes...just as they are loved in two homes, one with their mother and the other at their father's house with the step-family.

Charlie Anderson is a simple, yet mindful portrait of step-families, love multiplied, and caring. A great book for prediction and surprise endings.

Amanda says

I love this story! It's about a cat that has two homes. While one owner thinks that their cat, Charlie, is out hunting for the night it is actually at a different house. When the 2nd house thinks their cat, Anderson, is out hunting for the day it is at the first house. Eventually both owners find out that their cat is spending time at both houses they change his name to Charlie Anderson. The child in the book can relate to the cat in the

story because they also split their time between two homes. This is a great book to read to bring up the topic of divorce.

Ryan Madis says

As I see it, a picture book is defined by its pictures. That makes sense right? The pictures in this book had a certain light to them, which I felt made them unique in that way, but the painting style itself was pretty average.

The story was pretty easy to follow, making it a good children's book in general. It was easy to follow as many people have some sort of house animals that might run away, and I really liked the twist at the end. It just predictable enough to have that 10 second moment of "I know what's going to happen!", and I like that very much.

Also, I love the deeper message behind the book, having to do with divorced parents. My parents have always been together, so I can't personally relate to that, but I think this does a great job of relating to kids in that situation.

Honestly, I'm a big fan.

Reade says

Charlie Anderson is a book about a furry cat that finds its way into a house with two girls. The two girls decide to name it Charlie. Charlie comes every night and sleeps in their beds, then leaves in the morning to go to the woods. One night, Charlie never come. The girls are worried so they go house to house asking if anyone has seen the cat. They get to a house and find that Charlie has been living in another house during the day and they call the cat Anderson. Charlie Anderson continues to go from house to house every day and every night.

3 book topic ideas

- 1.) Students could write a story about their pets and what they might do every time they go off to somewhere.
 - 2.) Students could write stories about their family and their pets as well.
 - 3.) Students could draw a story with a cat and decided what this cat is doing throughout the day when it is gone.
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N says

The cover makes this book look like something I might have enjoyed as a young girl, but now I look at it and I thought, oh no. This is going to be terrible and trite and dull. And then I started reading and it was ok and then it looked like it was going to be a cat with two homes story (Why are there so many cat with two homes stories?!?!?) and it is. But it's also more. The cat has two homes where it is loved and cared for--- just like the little girls who are the children of divorce. I really liked that connection. Worth the read, especially for kids struggling to deal with divorce.

Diane says

One night a cat shows up where Elizabeth and Sarah live. He makes himself quite at home and the girls name him Charlie. Every morning, Charlie disappears into the woods. He grows fat and the family grows very attached. But one stormy night, Charlie doesn't show up. Elizabeth and Sarah look everywhere. When they find him, they realize he has been living with another family during the day. They continue to share Charlie Anderson.

Beautiful illustrations and a fun twist at the end makes this a popular read aloud with students.

Andrea says

Good book for thinking about questions

Tess Robar says

Two girls named Elizabeth and Sarah found a cat one day and invited it to live with them. They named him Charlie and cared for him very much. He would go out in the woods all day and come back at night. When they went to visit their father and stepmother one weekend, Charlie never came back. They went looking for Charlie and found out that he had another home in which he was named Anderson. They renamed him Charlie Anderson and he lived happily ever after in two loving homes. In the end, the story makes the connection between Charlie Anderson's situation and Elizabeth and Sarah's. It makes it clear that just like Charlie Anderson, the girls also have two loving homes. The illustrations in the story look as if they were painted. The illustrated uses many different shades/hues of blue that give the book a serious tone.

I gave this book five stars because I really liked the message it sends. This book would be extremely relatable for kids with divorced parents.

Susan says

This is a touching story that also gave me a good chuckle. Additionally, the pictures are beautifully done and the message a good one for children whose parents are living apart, and also just generally for understanding the different types of families the people can have.
